



NATIONAL LABOR RELATIONS BOARD

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NLRB CHAIRMAN GOULD ANTICIPATES A COOPERATIVE AND CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP WITH CONGRESS IN 1997

Stating that one of his primary goals for 1997 is "to find a basis for conciliation with Republicans and Democrats" by "working with leaders of both parties in the Congress and explaining what the agency is doing and how we function," NLRB Chairman William B. Gould IV expressed confidence that the 105th Congress will reflect cooperative and constructive currents in labor-management relations.

Mr. Gould made his remarks in a speech delivered December 21 at the Stetson University College of Law in St. Petersburg, Florida. Mr. Gould, who spoke at Stetson's Fall law school commencement ceremony, also was presented with an Honorary Doctor of Law Degree. He previously was awarded Honorary Doctor of Law Degrees from the University of Rhode Island and from the District of Columbia School of Law.

During his speech, Mr. Gould stated:

"Finding the 'vital center' is consistent with my approach to labor relations as an arbitrator for three decades. The NLRB is neither pro-labor, nor pro-employer -- nor should it be. For the remainder of my term -- and consistent with my approach these past 33 months -- I will make every effort to continue our restoration of the public's confidence in this Agency's mission of impartiality and neutrality enjoyed prior to the 1980s, and promote a more harmonious labor relations climate in the United States.

"I look forward to establishing much the same kind of relationship with the leaders of Congress and the relevant committees in 1997. I would like to explain more to Congress about what we actually do and how we function -- and toward this objective we are inviting staff members of the relevant committees on both the Democratic and Republican sides of the aisle to visit our offices and to attend the important meetings of our Advisory Panels in which we have received so much valuable input from the labor bar on both the union and management side. I remain hopeful that the work of the Board and the Congress will reflect the more cooperative and constructive currents in labor-management relations. And, again, I look forward to working with the Congress in this vein."

Mr. Gould encouraged the Stetson law graduates to take up government or public service at some point during their legal careers. He said:

"For me, the opportunity to head the National Labor Relations Board -- and to be the first black American upon whom that honor has been bestowed -- has been a great challenge full of substantial rewards."

"December 1, 1996 marked 1000 days since I was first sworn in. It has been the most exciting job that I ever have held, and -- whatever the future holds for me beyond the end of my term on August 27, 1998 -- I have the feeling that it will be the most memorable and rewarding job I ever will have."

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